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Statement on federal law enforcement activities within local jurisdictions:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some local perspective on growing anxieties nationally around federal law enforcement agency activities and the concerns that brings up for our community, and I speak on behalf of City administration.

Chief Sass and I confer regularly on issues around law enforcement and consider the regional, state, and national contexts as we do so. Federal law enforcement agencies have a specifically defined scope of authority laid out in federal law and enforced in the scope of their agency's purpose.

Local police departments – like the City of Medina's Police Department – are the closest law enforcement agencies to the people in the respective communities they serve. They have the primary responsibility within the overlapping layers of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to broadly enforce the law and serve and protect the people in their communities. We do not enforce immigration law, nor do we inquire about immigration status in carrying out police activities for our community.

Our top priority is the health, safety, and welfare of those in Medina here to live, work, learn, and play. We care about you and are here at your service to ensure a safe environment.

Our police department is a professional, accredited law enforcement agency, trained and prepared to respond in the event an incident occurs in our community, including at one of our schools. Medina police officers wear clear identification in the conduct of their duties.

Chief Sass and I are aligned, and he and other members of the Medina Police Department have my full confidence as City Manager. We will ensure the laws of the State of Washington and the City of Medina are adhered to by any and all persons within our jurisdiction. As always, if you ever encounter something of concern, please call 911 so an officer can be promptly dispatched to help.

The times in which we live are challenging, and I want to reassure our community your safety is and always has been our top priority. Chief Sass and I are always happy to meet with and hear the concerns of members of our community.

Jeff Swanson, City Manager

City of Medina, WA